

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 4, 2003 (Paper No. 6). Claims 1 to 15 are in the application. Claims 7 and 13 have been amended, and Claims 14 and 15 have been added herein. Claims 1, 7 and 13 are in independent form. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 1 to 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,615,318 (Matsuura). The rejections are respectfully traversed, and reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

Referring to specific claim language, independent Claim 1 is directed to a coordinate input apparatus which detects three-dimensional position coordinates of an indicating tool. The coordinate input apparatus includes detection means for detecting a three-dimensional coordinate value of the indicating tool which is defined in first, second, and third dimensions. The coordinate input apparatus also includes comparing means for comparing a coordinate value in the first dimension of the three-dimensional coordinate value with a predetermined value, and control means for controlling outputting of coordinate values in the second and third dimensions on the basis of the comparison result obtained by said comparing means.

In a similar manner, independent Claims 7 and 13 respectively define the invention in terms of a control method and a computer-readable memory which generally include substantially similar features as those set forth in independent Claim 1.

One significant feature of the invention therefore lies in comparing a coordinate value in the first dimension of the three-dimensional coordinate value with a predetermined value, and controlling outputting of coordinate values in the second and third dimensions on the basis of the comparison result. By virtue of this feature, it can be

determined whether an input operation is a proximity input operation or a remote input operation, and coordinate values can be calculated accurately.

Matsuura discloses the visualizing of the shape formed by assembling sewing patterns, allowing a user to learn an estimated shape of assembled sewing patterns approximate to the wearing condition of the clothes. See Matsuura, column 2, lines 11 to 15. According to Matsuura, waist and chest lengths of sewing patterns in an assembled state are handled as shape features of the sewing pattern. The shape of a reference dummy (dress form) is expanded and changed in form so that the waist and chest lengths of the reference dummy after expansion agree with the waist and chest lengths of the shape formed by assembling the sewing patterns. See Matsuura, Abstract.

The Office Action contends that Matsuura discloses comparing means (calculation means 1200 in Fig. 1) for comparing a coordinate value in the first dimension of the three-dimensional coordinate value with a predetermined value, and control means (image processing means 1300 in Fig. 1) for controlling the output of coordinate values in the second and third dimensions on the basis of the comparison result, citing Matsuura at Figs. 1 to 3, summary, column 6, line 6 to column 7, line 66, and column 11, line 34 to column 14, line 52. Applicants respectfully disagree.

The cited portions of Matsuura are seen to teach input means 1100 for inputting first three-dimensional coordinate values and the lengths of sewing patterns, and calculation means 1200 for calculating second three-dimensional coordinate values which correspond to the inputted data and represent the shape formed by assembling the sewing patterns. Image processing means 1300 generates, from the calculated second three-dimensional coordinate values, a two-dimensional projection image associated with the shape formed by assembling the sewing patterns. See Matsuura, column 6, lines 6 to 31.

However, the calculation means 1200 of Matsuura is not seen make a comparison between a coordinate value in the first dimension of the three-dimensional coordinate value with a predetermined value. Rather, the calculation means 1200 merely generates three-dimensional coordinate values corresponding to inputted first three-dimensional coordinate values and lengths of sewing patterns. Since Matsuura does not make such a comparison, it could not possibly describe that the image processing means 1300 outputs coordinate values in the second and third dimensions that are controlled on the basis of such a comparison result as in the present invention.

Based on the foregoing remarks, independent Claims 1, 7 and 13 are believed to be allowable over the applied reference.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
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Respectfully submitted,


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